Bus owners

* 201 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of individuals or firms who run more than 20 buses in the State as on 1st July 1962?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister): Seven individuals and twenty firms.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Sir, since there are about 27 people who run more buses, is there any proposal to limit the number of buses that a firm or individual can own?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: It is not necessary to do so.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Now that the income from the running of the buses, as the Government are aware, is very great, why should the Government allow a particular individual or a few firms to amass all wealth by running more buses and by their being granted more routes?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Bus permits are granted according to well-established rules, and if a person is eligible for permit, then there is no reason why he should be deprived of it. The efficiency of operation brings profits and it is not the number buses that brings profits.

Bifurcation of Salem district

* 202 *Q.*—SRI R. VENKATACHALAM: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to bifurcate the Salem district and make Krishnagiri the district headquarters for North Salem district; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister): (a) & (*b*) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to bifur ate Salem district territorially. A Special Officer in the grade of a Collector has been appointed to work out the scheme. The question of location of the headquarters of the new bifurcated district will be examined only after the receipt of the report from the Special Officer.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN: What is the reason for this bifurcation?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The districts are found to be unwieldy and too large.

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DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that posts of Assistants to Collectors were created recently at great expense and yet these two people are not able to cope with the work? Is it due to inefficiency or has the work really increased?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The hon. Member is aware that the Collectors of districts have now to attend to a large number and variety of subjects. Particularly with the introduction of the panchayat administration, they have to attend to a number of local problems. Therefore, it is considered advantageous to territorially limit the area of each district.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the posts of Assistants to Collectors be abolished after the separation?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That will be considered in due time.

திரு. ஆர். வெங்கடாசலம்: தலைவர் அவர்களே, சேலம் மாவட்டத்தைப் பொறுத்தவரையில் ஓமலூர் தாலுகாவாசிகள் விருப்பத்திற்கு மாறாக ஒரு பகுதியில் இணைப்பதாகக் கூறுகிறார்களே, சர்க்கார் அதற்குத் தகுந்த நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா என்பதை அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

கனம் திரு. ஆர். வெங்கட்டராமன்: இன்னும் அறிக்கை வரவில்லை. அதற்கு முன்னால் வருவதெல்லாம் வதந்திகள்தான்.

Panchayat Radio Maintenance Organization

*203 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by the Panchayat Radio Maintenance Organization from 1st September 1961 till date on the establishment charges and purchase of materials and the work turned out during the above period?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : The expenditure incurred by the Panchayat Radio Maintenance Organization from 1st September 1961 to 31st March 1962 on establishment and on purchase of materials is as follows :—

	RS.	NP.
1. Establishment charges inclusive of dearness allowance, travelling allowance, other compensatory allowance and other charges.	94,946	83
2. Purchase of materials	27,801	57
Total ..	1,22,748	40

Particulars of work turned out—

(i) Number of radio sets serviced	3,016
(ii) Number of radio sets inspected	1,223
(iii) Number of cinema trailer units, projectors, generators, etc., serviced	131